Vol. 3, No. 24

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

June 22, 2001

Group-38 tests skills in scorching Fort Bliss desert

MACG-38 Marines improve air-defense, command-control tactics in combined, joint environment



Sergeant William J. Bowden, electrician, MTACS-38, was one of more than 400 Marines from 3d MAW who departed for the desert nearly three weeks ago to participate in Roving Sands '01, a combined, joint exercise dedicated to air and missile defense capability. *Photo Sqt. Carolyn S. Sittig*

By Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

FORT BLISS, Texas – More than 400 Marines from Marine Air Control Group 38 participated in the combined, joint air-defense exercise Roving Sands 2001 here.

The purpose of Roving Sands was to test the integration of air and missile defense systems into a combined, joint contingency operation, said Maj. Eric O'Harra, Marine Air Control Squadron 1 Tactical Air Operation Center detachment commander. It was also the largest air-defense exer-

cise in the world, according to O'Harra.

Both reserve and active Marine forces joined together to add an element of realism to the exercise. "The biggest benefit in working with active and reserve units together is that it's done during a war. Reserves would work with us or augment us in a war," said Lt. Col. Mark Blaydes, MACS-1 commanding officer.

Marines from MACS-1 and MACS-24, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 and 3rd and 4th Low-Altitude Air-Defense Battalions all participated in RS-01.

The reason RS-01 incorporates Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and foreign nations is because nearly every conflict the United States has been involved in has been joint and multinational, O'Harra added. "The Army won't go fight by itself and neither will the Marine Corps, so we need to work out interoperability issues beforehand," explained O'Harra.

According to all of the parties involved in the exercise, RS-01 was an informative and excellent training opportunity. "Operationally we are getting exposed to the Tactical Air Command Center and joint force air component commander, which is something we don't get to do often. It gets us out of our comfort level. We are used to working with Marine Corps units and this is opening their eyes to the wider variety of challenges they have to overcome," said O'Harra.

A good portion of the exercise serves as a test bed for future exercises. Much of the difficulties seen in this one will hopefully be applied to improve the next exercise that will be in 2003 after it has gone through some modifications, said O'Harra.

"There have been improvements since last year's exercise in defense design and how things are run. However, little change have been made in the execution of communications not as a result of Marine Corps planning, but from a joint perspective," said O'Harra.

Because each service – Army, Navy and Air Force – and the other two nations represented – the Netherlands and Germany – have different equipment and procedures for communicating radar information there was difficulty with communications.

"The operators have to learn how Army data-link sys-

See **Sands**, page 11

BAH increase for E-1s through E-4s

By Nicholas J. Carter

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Servicemembers, pay grades E-1 through E-4, who have families and live off base will see an increase in their allowance for housing July 1.

The boost is the result of legislation aimed at helping junior enlisted families.

"One of the reasons was to take the E-1 to E-4 with dependents (family members) and have them receive the same basic allowance for housing rate," said Maj. Leslie Gerald, manager of the compensation and entitlements division of the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

"The other initiative was to increase the housing standard that the E-4 with dependents (family members) currently had prior to July 1."

On average, those in the E-1 through E-3 grades will receive a monthly increase of more than \$50. E-4s will see a smaller monthly boost of about \$11. Rates will remain the same for single servicemembers.

Housing allowances are based on rental costs, so the actual increase will vary, depending on the cost of living in that particu-

lar area. In most cases, those living in highcost locations will see larger increases, while allowances will be lower for those living in more affordable housing.

Each year the military is required to determine community off-base housing costs.

Those figures are used to calculate the Basic Allowance for Housing rate.

Significant changes in the housing market will be reflected in the BAH rates for that year, according to Gerald.

"Some housing markets are more volatile than others," said Gerald. "It just depends on the location and the conditions of that housing market."

A two-bedroom town house is the offbase housing standard on which the BAH is built for E-1s – E-3s with families, according to Pentagon policy. A two-bedroom town house or duplex is the standard for E-5s.

Servicemembers stationed overseas receive housing allowances under a different system and are not effected.

The new junior enlisted BAH rates were added by Congress to the fiscal year 2001 Defense Authorization Act. The addition was

See **BAH**, page 10

Air station continues to reduce energy consumption despite rising temperatures

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO. MCAS Miramar

Marines, Sailors and their family members here continue to show their concern for energy supplies by reducing energy consumption aboard the air station.

According to Capt. John H. Covington

Jr., energy program officer and assistant public works officer, the air station's energy consumption has reduced by 12.1 percent since the kickoff of the Energy Conservation

since the kickoff Using a power strip makes it easier 12902, along with Defense Deof the Energy to shut off work equipment at the end partment instruction, calls for Conservation of the day. Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley Miramar Marines, Sailors and Campaign, March 1. their family members to reduce energy con-

"We're on track to meet our goal of 30 percent," he said. "We will meet that goal – the progress is in-line with the timeline."

Covington said energy conservation specialists have looked at 100 percent of the buildings, and the air station has now been

moved into tier two of a four-tier plan. During tier one, individuals were ordered to police themselves to cut down energy usage. Even with tremendous progress, tier two has begun. Tiers two and three call for the use of digital controls, technology and system controls to lower consumption of energy aboard the air station.

Even though it would hinder mission accomplishment here, tier four could be enacted if the conservation doesn't continue to improve. Tier four calls from anything from removing air conditioners to power outages. Air Station Executive Order 12902, along with Defense Department instruction, calls for Miramar Marines. Sailors and

their family members to reduce energy consumption by 30 percent by 2005. Covington said public works will continue to monitor the progress on a biweekly basis.

"Everyone is doing their part," Covington said. "We couldn't do it without the Marines out there"

Iwo Jima flag raising reenacted at monthly 3d MAW colors ceremony



Six Marines reenact the raising of the national ensign on Mt. Suribachi during the 3d MAW colors ceremony. *Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.*

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Servicemembers and the local civilian community were given a high-powered dose of patriotism June 15, during a colors ceremony at the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing head-quarters building here.

The theme of the ceremony was Flag Day, which was officially June 14. The 3d MAW band provided the guests with patriotic mu-

sic, including a spirited version of the Marines' Hymn.

Near the end of the song, six Marines carrying the national ensign careened around the band with warrior faces, yelling mightily. In a magnificent flash the famous scene of Feb. 23, 1945, on top of Mount Suribachi unfolded before the crowd. The crowd cheered and clapped as many wiped tears of joy and remembrance from their eyes.

Major Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., 3d

MAW commanding general, addressed the crowd during the ceremony, and called for them to reflect on the red, white and blue piece of cloth hanging high on the pole, and to remember those who fell defending it.

"Yesterday was Flag Day," he said. "Many of you have fought for the flag. All of us have lost friends (who died in defense of the flag)."

The flag is a representation, not only of America, but of diversity — the cornerstone principle of this country, added Maj. Gen. Bolden. He noted that sometimes diversity causes controversy. The guests of the ceremony embodied the essence of diversity — members of the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Organization for Women and the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam were present, as well as many others.

All differences aside, many guests were clearly appreciative of the ceremony and of the respect shown toward the flag.

"I loved today's ceremony," said Donna Bennett Cole, Mayflower Society state governor. "I'm very patriotic. This was by far the best ceremony I have ever seen."

Each month a colors ceremony with varying themes is presented and music is performed based on that theme.

Mustang retires after 35 years

By Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

 $CP\!AO,\,MC\!AS\,Miramar$

Unlike any other retirement ceremony, one Marine of each enlisted rank aligned diagonally to the left side of the flagpole, stood proudly at attention. While on the right side one officer of every rank did the same. At the peak of this formation Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, commander Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, greeted the retiring Marine.

Lieutenant Col. Jack Harkins requested that no ceremony be held for his retirement, he wanted to go quietly. But the Marines of Miramar couldn't let him leave without a proper send-off.

After 35 dedicated years to the Marine Corps, Harkins hung-up his pack and called it a career June 15, in a ceremony in front of Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area's headquarters.

"Jack epitomizes what it is to be a Marine. Dedication, his professionalism, his demeanor as a Marine officer, leadership, certainly his example inspired me," said Maj. Gen. Bowdon.

Harkins began his career in 1964 when he enlisted as an infantryman. He has been all over the world and has worn many hats

in the Marine Corps. He served two tours in Vietnam and molded Marines as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Years later he was commissioned as a Marine artillery officer. As an officer, Harkins commanded a series of recruits at MCRD San Diego and Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and closed his career as the deputy commander of G-4 here.

Major Gen. Bowdon expressed how the Miramar Marines felt about Harkins during the ceremony.

"Jack we'll miss you and we greatly, appreciate your service. You have shown us you are willing to give anything and everything," said Maj. Gen. Bowdon. "We thank you for your example, for the hard work and the many hours of dedicated service here at COMCABWEST. We appreciate your service to our country for the last 35 years."



Lance Cpl. Thomas Marino, military police officer with the Provost Marshal's Office here, diligently folds the national ensign, as Lt. Col. Jack Harkins receives praise and thanks for 35 years of dedicated service June 15.

Photo by Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

work and the many hours of dedicated service here at COMCABWEST. We appreciate your service to our country for the last 35 years."

Hackett assumes command of 232





Lt. Col. Terrance Gould

Lt. Col. Edward G. Hackett

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lieutenant Col. Terrance Gould will relinquish command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 here to Lt. Col. Edward G. Hackett in a change-of-command ceremony Friday in front of Hanger One at 10 a.m.

Gould will relocate to Norfolk, Va., to serve with the G-3 Current Operations, Marine Forces Atlantic.

Hackett, a Staten Island, N.Y., native, is a 1982 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. When he completed The Basic School, he was ordered to flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

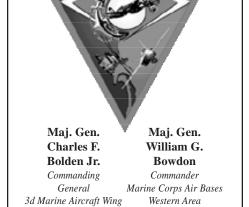
After receiving his wings in September 1984, Hackett reported to the A4-M Fleet Replacement Squadron, Yuma, Ariz.

Upon completion of this training in August 1985, Hackett was assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 311 in El Toro. During this tour, he completed two Unit Deployment Program rotations, and he was promoted to Captain in June 1987.

Hackett was reassigned in July 1988, to the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico, Va. Following graduation, Hackett was ordered to New Orleans to serve with the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

Hackett also graduated from the United States Naval Test Pilot School in December

Flight Jacket



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See **232**, page 11

What Fleet Marine Force Sailors really rate

By Sgt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger

MARFORPAC

For the past month or so a hot debate has been raging throughout the Marine Corps and Navy. The debate is over the Marine Corps' new utilities uniform and whether or not

Navy personnel, serving in Fleet Marine Force (FMF) "In combat when "the crap hits the fan," and died in wars while servunits, i.e. corpsmen, chaplains, and Marines are taking casualties, the Sail- ing alongside each other. etc., should rate to display the Ors on the scene will not need our emblem

That's the reality of war and Ors on the scene will not need our emblem Corps' Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem, on the left breast on their pocket or cover to be identified by is an ugly thing." pocket and cover, when they anyone." wear the uniform.

Like any sergeant major, there's nothing I enjoy more

then to get right into the middle of a firefight involving a lively exchange of professional views. I have read and heard more comments from both Marines and Sailors then I care to on the matter. It seems as though this is the only issue currently in need of attention by either service.

People discussing it seem either entirely for Sailors displaying it or they're vehemently against it. The vast majority of Marines I have spoken to feel that only Marines should rate displaying the Marine Corps emblem on our new utilities. Well, I'm no different than any other FMF Marine or Sailor. I too have an opinion on this subject, but it's just my

A lot of Marines don't understand why a member of another service branch would even want to wear our Eagle, Globe and Anchor. However, a lot of Sailors (especially corpsmen) feel that they rate displaying it on their Marine utilities because they serve alongside us. Some even contend that they rate wearing it because many of them have spilled their blood with us. They believe that if they're not authorized to wear the embroidered Marine Corps emblem, on the new Marine cammies, it somehow reflects a lack of respect for them by the very Marines they serve beside both in peacetime and combat.

In spite of their proud traditions, rating to wear our emblem by anyone other than a Marine is where I personally disagree.

I say that because Sailors, just like Marines, soldiers,

and airmen, have shed blood

For this article I want to fo-Sqt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger cus more on what I believe

> History shows the distinguished service of Sailors to our country, be it serving alongside Marines on a battlefield or taking care of business them-

selves during sea battles. Sailors have indeed earned the respect of all Marines for their proven honor, sacrifice and courage, but I can tell you it wasn't because of any emblem sewn onto a utility pocket or cover.

If, God forbid, someone from the Navy is wounded in combat while serving alongside a Marine, he's still a Sailor proudly representing the Navy.

The fact that the wounded Sailor was assigned to a Marine unit, and form, doesn't make him a

explains why people say, "War

sergeant major, Marine Forces Pacific FMF Sailors really rate.

Should Sailors serving with FMF units be allowed to wear was wearing a Marine uni- the Eagle, Globe and Anchor? Do Sailors rate the Marine Corps Emblem? Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

Marine casualty. That same individual would, I'm sure, want to be recognized as a Sailor of valor. And he would be proud

I think it's important to note that Marines have routinely fought and died on battlefields with servicemembers from each of our sister services and were proud to have done so.

Marines have nothing but complete respect and admiration for FMF Sailors for their sacrifice and commitment to us. It should be quite obvious to everyone how much Marines appreciate and trust our Naval brethren.

Combat Marines ultimately entrust their very lives into the skillful hands of those Sailors serving beside them. From that perspective, Sailors don't rate to be equal with us. They rate to be a cut above.

I would hope that every FMF Sailor in question knows in their heart where they truly stand with their Marine breth-

I personally don't believe that deep in their heart, there's

even one Sailor - corpsman, chaplain, etc. - who truly believes that wearing or not wearing a Marine Corps emblem diminishes, in any way, the respect Marines have for them.

In combat when "the crap hits the fan," and Marines are taking casualties, the Sailors on the scene will not need our emblem on their pocket or cover to be identified by anyone. When those horrifying words ring out, "Corpsman up," and seconds later he or she is leaning over that casualty, it's that Sailor's reassuring face that is recognized; not a pocket or cover emblem.

65 or older? Need prescriptions?

TRICARE

News Release

Are you a senior beneficiary age 65 or older and are having trouble footing the bill for those costly prescriptions you so desperately need? Through the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program your troubles may be over.

If you are a beneficiary and you are age 65 or older, you are eligible to enroll in the program that has seniors all over the world smiling, the TRICARE SPP. If you are 65 or older after April 2001 you must be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to qualify for the program. Enrollment is free and the amount of money you'll save on medication is significant.

Seniors currently registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System are automatically enrolled in the program. Currently, there is no specific card of any type to verify enrollment. Your military identification and social security cards will substantiate.

To give you an idea of what we're talking about here, a senior, equiped with written prescription and military identification card can receive a 30-day supply of generic medication for a mere \$3.

If you prefer, you can receive a month's supply of brand name medication for the low price of \$9.

For even bigger savings order your prescription by mail. Information regarding mail-order prescriptions can be obtained by calling (800) 903-4680.

For the nearest location and any other information regarding the program call Herbert Palmtag, Miramar retired activities officer, at 577-4806 or visit the Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil.

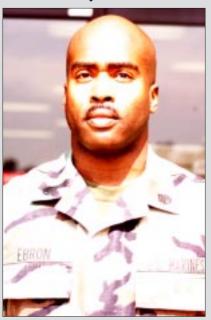
Ad Space

ATTENTION COMMANDERS

Would you like to get your word out to more than just your squadron? Would you like to see your opinions in the station newspaper? Do you have tips for young Marines aboard the air station? We want to know about it. The Flight Jacket staff encourages anyone with a command message to submit stories or even photographs. Send submissions by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail to ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil.

Mir Remarks

What do you do to promote safety in the workplace on a daily basis?



"I try to show my Marines the benefits of safety. It's hard to hug your family with no arms."

Staff Sgt. John F. Ebron MAI S-11 SESS coordinator



"I make sure the Marines here wear their seatbelts and abide by all the traffic laws, signs and signals."

Lance Cpl. Omar Silva H&HS military police patrolman



"When any of the Marines are in the shop I make sure they wear their safety glasses."

Gunnery Sqt. Chris S. Andrews NCOIC T64 engine repair shop

The symbolism behind 'cheap ties'

By Gunnery Sgt. Glenn Holloway

Commentary

have received some pretty awesome gifts for Father's Day. No cheap ties or ugly shirts — no siree — just really great gifts.

My daughter likes to give me bookmarks. Sometimes they are handmade, like the one she gave when she was 4. It was complete with real grass, small violets and all the love her little heart could muster. Another year she gave me a bookmark with her picture on it — all smiles with a fishing pole over her shoulder. What a great gift!

My son gave models when he was young - a lot of models. Airplanes, helicopters, cars, trucks ... you name it, he's made it, and at one time or another, they have all been on my desk at work. Now, he's grown. He thinks like most men do, "Oh no! Tomorrow's Father's Day, and I your kids don't love you. Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley haven't gotten Dad anything." I now get lastminute Hallmarks with hastily written messages on them instead of models. But, I know the sincerity is there, and the love is obvi-

I treasure every gift those little hands



If you received a bad Father's Day gift it doesn't mean

have ever made and every scratched and scrawled message on every 60-cent card. But they can't hold a candle to the best gift my children have given me:

Their love. Their trust. Their honest appraisals in times when they were really

needed. The looks in their eyes that say, "Daddy, I love you," and more than any other gift, their simple presence in my life.

I could live a hundred more years and never have a more wonderful feeling than the warmth of my children sitting on my lap early in the morning while I watch the news and sip my coffee; the tender kisses on the cheek and the middle-of-the-night "can I sleep with yous" that sometimes interrupted "the moment" and made me cringe. I wouldn't have missed those for the world.

There is no gift in this world a man can have that even holds a candle to the joys of fatherhood. Entrusted to you are the lives you helped bring into the world — or just helped bring up in the world. They look to you for everything from food and shelter to guidance and yes, believe it or not,

discipline. Our children need us fathers. They need to see a male role model who loves them, unconditionally. Who is not afraid to tell them so and who regularly proves it.

If you've done that, wear your Father's Day tie proudly.

Problem-solving 102: Determine the real issue

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

Commentary

man, walking down the street in his hometown, spies a young kitten trapped in a tree and meowing for help. The man also notices the base of the tree is on fire, and he knows he must act fast to save the small animal. What's the real problem, and how would you handle this situation?

The man ran around looking for a ladder, ignoring the fire extinguisher 10 feet away. The result: the cat, fearing the flames, jumped from the tree and died. The man's

primary concern was tree, but was that the real If Marines – especially Marine getting the cat out of the problem?

Most people would multi-faceted problem remem- of the tree: Grab the agree the problem is ber to gather their wits, sepa- fire extinguisher, how to get the cat out of rate and prioritize their prob- put out the fire, find flames spread further up lems and react accordingly, the the tree before the the trunk, but I think the Marine Corps, as a whole will be the kitten. issue is actually how to far more effective. put the flames out. A cat.

at home in the limbs of the tree, is less likely to be in peril of falling than from the spreading flames. Instead of searching for a ladder, the man should have gathered his wits, noticed the fire extinguisher and put the fire

Real world.

When approached with a multi-faceted blem, Marines often lose their wits, and the best solution is lost. The key to solving these problems is to look closely and determine what the real problem is.

In the case of the cat, the multi-faceted problem was a cat in a tree on fire. The two interwoven problems were 1) a cat stuck in

a tree, and 2) a tree on fire. The man saw the whole picture and forgot to separate the problems. Separating interwoven problems can often help an individual see a solution easier than looking at the entire mess.

After determining what the problems are, the next step is prioritizing the problems based on severity. A fire is far more important than a cat stuck in a tree. Granted the cat is a living organism, the fire is still more severe than rescuing the cat, because cats are comfortable in trees.

After separating and prioritizing the problems, the next step is to take action starting with the most severe and working down.

Here's how the man should have proceeded to safely leaders - when faced with a bring the kitten out a ladder, climb the ladder and rescue

> The man, because he didn't

separate and prioritize his problems, skipped the first two steps in the process, and the cat

Although the scenario is a bit hokey, the point remains. Problem solving relies on the ability of an individual to think clearly and react wisely. In order to act in the best manner when faced with a multi-faceted problem, an individual needs to be able to sepa rate and prioritize the smaller problems.

Often, Marines presented with real-world scenarios have only seconds to react. Those seconds are crucial to the success of entire missions. If Marines - especially Marine leaders - when faced with a multi-faceted

problem remember to gather more effective.

Wrestling and Chess?

As part of the World Wrestling Federation event Sunday, beginning at 4 p.m., there will be a simultaneous chess exhibition. The 1997 **Armed Forces Chess** champion will be on hand to take on all challengers. The champion at the Multi-Cultural Heritage Day the last two years boasts a record of 53-0. Winners will receive a free dinner/ lunch compliments of the Club.

NOW TELL YOU THINK

Do you have news?

Did you take a newsworthy photo? Would you like to see your byline on our opinion page?

The newspaper staff encourages Marines to submit commentaries, letters to the editor, news, sports, features or other articles or photographs. Story submissions can be sent by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil.

Often, Marines presented with real-world scenarios have only seconds to react. their wits, separate and prioritize their problems and react accordingly, the Marine Those seconds are crucial to the success Corps, as a whole will be far of entire missions.

Feature Flight Jacket June 22, 2001 **5**

Marines, Sailors brighten lives at St. Vincent de Paul Village

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

hen there is a need, count on the Marines and Sailors here to step up and meet the challenge head on. Volunteerism is a great way for Marines and Sailors to give back to the San Diego community, and a group from Miramar recently found out how it feels to brighten the lives of less fortunate people.

On June 14, a group of Marines and Sailors took time to help paint the new parking complex at Saint Vincent de Paul Village in downtown San Diego.

"We have a good relationship with the volunteer coordinator at Saint Vincent de Paul Village, and they know if they need us, we're always available to help," said Religious Programs Chief Leonardo G. Angeles, the senior religious programs specialist for 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.

Approximately 20 Marines and Sailors turned out in support of the event that lasted from 8 a.m. until 2 in the afternoon. The Marines and Sailors didn't just paint, they cleaned the outside walkways and street front as well.

"It's one of our jobs as United States servicemembers to help out the community when needed. We swore to protect and defend these people, and volunteering is part of it," said Lance Cpl. Eric M. Gonzales, communication technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, and Single Marine Program Treasurer.

Some Marines, not having the full day

off, drove to Saint Vincent de Paul Village to lend a hand during chow time.

"I came over here during my chow time, because I wanted to do something positive. It's important for us to get in touch with the needs of the civilian community we live in," said Pfc. Carlton J. McLeod, administration clerk, MAG-11.

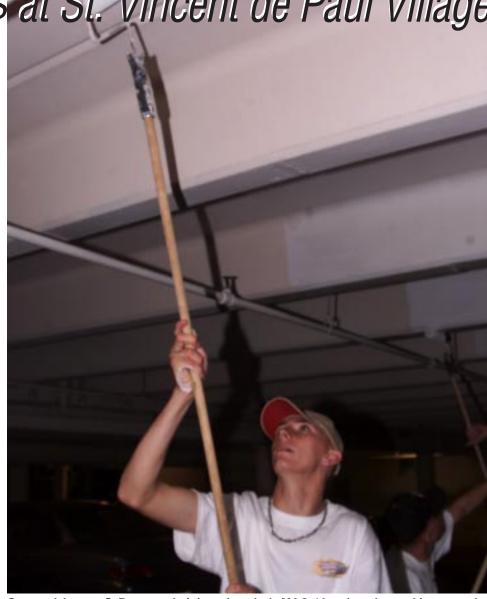
Volunteerism is an invaluable tool in Miramar's relationship with the San Diego community. Major General Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, is a strong advocate of volunteerism and community outreach.

"A very important basis for the vision of 3d MAW is our 'Putting Marines First' Campaign Plan. The plan is built on the three pillars of mentorship, wellness, and community outreach. One of the goals of community outreach is to 'establish volunteerism as a virtuous activity worthy of our effort," said Maj. Gen. Bolden recently.

Saint Vincent de Paul Village and the chaplain's office here are planning an event to feed the homeless during the Fourth of July weekend.

"Hopefully, we can get a lot more support for the Independence Day event. We need to bring busloads of Marines out here to help," said Sgt. Andrew B. Luken, building manager, 3d MAW, G-4.

For more information... about volunteer work contact the chaplain's office 577-7368.



Corporal Jeremy S. Brown, administration clerk, MAG-16, paints the parking complex ceiling at Saint Vincent de Paul Village in downtown San Diego. *Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson*

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

efore a KC-130 Hercules can roll down the strip, one Marine aboard handles the weight and balance of

The essential man-behind-the-scene is a loadmaster, who has a multitude of responsibilities before, during and after the flight. The different types of missions the Hercules flies will dictate a loadmaster's

The loadmaster operates long-range, high-frequency radios during over-water missions and maintains security and control of all things in the rear of the aircraft among other things. He works closely with the pilot, co-pilot, navigator, flight engineer and the flight mechanic.

"To accomplish these flights, the entire crew must work together," said Staff Sgt. John D. Purdue, loadmaster and ground

training noncommissioned officer in charge, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352.

The crew performs six types of flight missions that this aircraft supports. Its main mission is tactical air refueling. Other missions include troop assault transport, aerial delivery of personnel and equipment, rapid ground refueling and battlefield illumination.

Only after the loadmaster does routine checking of emergency oxygen masks, seats, life preservers, parachutes and passengers, if there are any, can the aircraft take off. Once in the air and refueling other aircraft such as the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter and the F/A-18 Hornet, the loadmaster observes the fuel connection between the two aircraft and tracks the fuel off-load and recipients. When fuel is transferred to other aircraft, the center of gravity changes in the

See **Loadmaster**, page 11



Corporal James E. Sloan, loadmaster, VMGR-352, checks gear in the rear of a KC-130 at Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

Ad Space

KC-130 loadmasters control Marines give 5-year-old planes' weights, balances another chance at life another chance at life



Taitingfong, career planner, MWCG-38, and her husband, Staff Sgt. Joseph Taitingfong, logistics chief, 2/4, MCB Camp Pendleton, pose for a snapshot with Samuel Holladay, 5. The Marine couple saved the child's life the day before by perfoming CPR after the boy drowned in a hotel swimming pool. Courtesy Photo

By Cpl. Kristopher Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

t was a warm San Diego evening, June 11, when Sgt. Rachel Taitingfong, a Freemont native and career planner for Marine Wing Control Group 38, and her husband Staff Sgt. Taitingfong, a San Diego native and logistics chief for 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, hopped in their car with the intention of driving to a local hotel to greet visiting family members.

The couple decided to stop and pick up a box of donuts before arriving at the hotel. Joseph accidentally exited onto the wrong freeway, sending the two on a much longer journey to the donut shop than

To their surprise both coffee shops they attempted to patron where closed.

"At that point we said, 'Forget the coffee. Let's just go to the hotel," said Rachel. "So we went to the hotel and parked in the garage on the second floor. We then got in the elevator and I don't know why, but we pushed the 5th floor

Though the 1st floor was their intended destination, the couple traveled up three flights to the 5th floor before realizing they made a little mistake. They quickly corrected the mistake and made their way toward the lobby on the 1st floor.

"As we're walking to the lobby, we heard a lot of commotion going on over by the hotel's swimming pool, which is located right by the lobby doors," said Rachel. "This little girl all of a sudden comes running up, and slips on the wet ground. I told my husband to go over (to the pool area) and see what's going on. I tried talking with the little girl. She kept saying 'We need help,' and then ran off to call 911. I threw the box of donuts to the ground and ran over to my husband."

When Rachel reached her husband she saw what was causing the commotion. A man was standing in front of them, dripping wet, holding the limp body of a young child in his arms. Later the couple would find out that the man was Clark Holladay, a vacationer from Nephi, Utah, and the young child was Sammy, Clark's 5-year-old son who had just drowned in the hotel's swimming pool.

"(Clark) was holding (Sammy) in his arms and (Sammy) was just really limp. His arms were just wobbling around.

(Clark) kept saying "Sammy, Sammy wake up." That's when my husband grabbed (Sammy) from his father and said, 'Step aside.' We then said (to Clark) 'We're Marines so just step aside."

The couple proceeded to lay the child on the ground. The child's eyes where rolled into the back of his head. His face was blue and he had no pulse. Quickly, the couple began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"I have never done (CPR) before. I learned it in boot camp and I never thought I was going to ever have to use it," said Rachel. "All I was thinking was there's this little boy here and nobody is doing anything."

After several minutes of CPR, the child's eyes opened wide.

"We kept (administering CPR). We heard some gurgling and then water started coming out (of the child's mouth). So we turned the child on his side and started rubbing his back and putting pressure on his lungs so he could throw up. We kept doing that until he started crying," said

"Honestly, when I first got there and I saw that kid, I'll tell you what kicked in my mind, the four life saving steps – start the breathing, stop the bleeding, protect the wound and treat for shock," said Joseph. "I didn't think I retained that stuff, but it's there. It is somewhere in my brain housing group, but it's there when I need it."

Police and emergency crews arrived on the scene shortly after the Taitingfongs revived Sammy.

Apparently, while keeping up with their other five children, the Holladays didn't notice little Sammy making his way out of the shallow end of the crowded pool into the deep end in the hopes of reaching his father. Somewhere in those few feet Sammy lost his strength and sank to the bottom of the pool.

"Somehow Samuel had wandered into the deeper 4-foot water to come to me, without anyone in the family noticing," said Holladay. "He slipped into unconsciousness and sank to the bottom of the pool for some five minutes before we noticed him missing."

"We feel with a certainty that our loving heavenly father, as only God could, intervened for our family that night. Placing the Taitingfongs where they needed to be, in our Flight Jacket June 22, 2001

VMGR-352 navigators maintain history, tradition



Corporal Justin A. Fritz is one of 14 enlisted navigators at VMGR-352 who practice the art of celestial navigation. The Marines are the only branch that still actively use celestial navigation in support of their KC-130 Hercules. Photo by Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

By Capt. Rebecca L. Goodrich-Hinton

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Behind the scenes at Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Navigator Cpl. Justin A. Fritz is maintaining history and tradition for the Marine Corps despite the other services abandonment of such for the sake of technology. Fritz is one of 14 navigators stationed here and one of approximately 83 enlisted navigators throughout the Corps who are preserving the endangered art of celestial navigation.

"The Marines are the only branch that still actively use celestial navigation in support of their KC-130 'Hercules,'" said Lt. Col. C. T. Parker, commanding officer, VMGR-352. "Celestial navigation is a coveted skill that most other services have gotten away from. It has been antiquated by newer technology and most only rely on it for emergency procedures now. Our aircraft conduct an array of missions that require precision navigation and Cpl. Fritz provides that for us."

The aircraft has three other electronic navigational devices, but since he has had to rely on celestial navigation more than once when the electronic systems have been compromised, Fritz tries to maintain a high level of proficiency of the art.

On top of being the only branch to place such a heavy reliance on a time-proven technique, the Marine Corps is the only service to entrust their enlisted personnel to navigate aircraft. According to Parker, all other services train only officers for the job. "I guess that makes me the most underpaid navigator in the DoD," jested Fritz.

Becoming an aerial navigator was a dream come true for this 21-year-old,

Denver native. "I enlisted for the aircrew option almost four years ago and I knew from the very beginning that I wanted to be a navigator," said Fritz. "Being a navigator is a huge responsibility. For only having completed high school I get to control a \$50 million aircraft."

His main responsibility is navigating the plane from point A to point B. "During high task saturation missions, navigators do a lot to keep you out of trouble, such as avoiding FAA flight violations and more importantly, from flying into the ground such as during low-level missions," said Capt. Louie G. Sagisi, pilot, VMGR-352.

"He's responsible for the vertical and horizontal direction and the air speed of the aircraft, which he determines based on meteorological conditions and airspace restrictions."

As the navigator, Fritz also researches flight routes and landing facilities, composes flight plans and monitors fuel consumption for the aircraft commander. But what sets Fritz apart from a civilian navigator are the dynamic tactical missions he plays a vital role in supporting, such as air delivery, fixed and rotary-wing refueling, battlefield illumination and self-contained approaches to hastily-made airfields.

Although his military occupational specialty does not directly relate to the civilian job market a Marine enlisted aerial navigator would be well prepared for a position as an airline dispatcher or air traffic controller upon completion of his military service.

"All members of our air crew possess a specific area of expertise – in addition to the pilots we have a navigator, engineer, mechanic and loadmaster – we work in sync as a team, they make recommendations and we rely on their expertise to ensure each mission is conducted safely and successfully," concluded Parker.

Ad Space

New style field mess builds morale in Australia



Marines from MWSS-171 serve meals to servicemembers at exercises in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area. Tandem Thrust is a combined United States and Australian military training exercise. More than 27,000 servicemembers are participating, with Canadian units acting as opposing forces. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jennifer A. Smith

By Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson

CPAO, MCAS Iwakuni

AMP SAMUEL HILL, Australia
— For Marines and Australians
taking part in Tandem Thrust '01 in
the Shoalwater Bay training area, there are
two guarantees – giant dust clouds and a
buffet style field mess put on by the
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171

In the field, a common image of chow is ripping open a cold Meal Ready to Eat, but the word has gotten out across the bush that the Sam Hill Field Mess is the place to be for a hot meal.

"They come from near and far to eat some of the Sam Hill's kitchen food," said Gunnery Sgt. Richie Clemons, MWSS-171 field mess chief. "What makes this field mess as good as it is, is that we took it to a whole new level."

That level is clear from the appearance of the set up, and even clearer once you try the meals served.

At first glance it is evident that great care was taken in presenting an aesthetically pleasing field mess. There are red tablecloths in the serving area, decorated with flowers. This is the first hint the field mess is not the standard. The food is also presented with care and as much attention to detail as possible.

"They have a variety of everything from steaks to pastas," said 1st Lt. Richard Deguzman, Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18 detachment officer-in-charge. "We don't have the opportunity to go out in town and get the big steaks everyone else is enjoying."

Even though mess hall patrons come from near and far for the taste, presentation

and variety of food, the field mess offers much more in support of the exercise than what can be cooked, dished out or whipped up.

"It's a great booster for morale," said Sgt. Bernard Salizar, MWSS-171 field mess burner noncommissioned officer. "A lot of people who come out of the field after a week or two are dirty and want a shower and a hot meal. We can provide that for them."

Although the field mess only offers breakfast and dinner with an MRE for lunch, there are few complaints from Marines or Australians. For the Australians it is better than what they are used to in a field mess.

"It's not really what we are used to as a mess," said Australian Defense Force Lance Cpl. Eric Drummond, director of practice radio operators. "We're used to having to rock out with our dixies and wash them afterward, (going to the field mess with their own dishes), so it makes life a little bit easier."

Being so far in the bush, the field mess is at the mercy of what they can get supplied to them, however, being in the heart of beef country has its advantages.

"We're in Australian beef country," Salazar said. "T-bone steak is about 75 cents a pound."

With fresh local meat, vegetables and other supplies, it is no wonder the Sam Hill Field Mess draws a crowd of more than 400 for each meal.

"I've only seen the other mess down in Rockhampton," Drummond said. "They are comparable, but I think points are awarded for setting up a good mess out in the field. Those guys in Rocky have got it too easy."

Ad Space

Miramar roller hockey team skates into victory

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Miramar's Varsity Roller Hockey Team dominated a recent tournament at the La Mesa Sports Complex last weekend.

The tournament, held by Miramar, was the first of its kind in California and drew approximately 70 Marines and Sailors.

"There has never been a roller hockey tournament in California for military teams only," said Jesse J. Gillespie, event coordinator and team captain for the Miramar Varsity Team.

The tournament was open exclusively to military teams, and teams from all over California showed up for the event. Teams were from: Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, USS Decatur, USS Mobile Bay and two teams from Miramar.

"The tournament was a huge success, because we had so much interest. I called all the bases in the area, and we had enough teams to play a real tournament," said Gillespie.

"Our team wants to show how much roller hockey is growing in the military in San Diego. This tournament hopefully opened the eyes of some of the higher ups at Marine Corps Community Services so we can start working towards a new rink on base," said Gillespie.

The recently demolished skating rink here was deemed unsafe for play, and now teams are looking for other places to play.

"Miramar has six to eight different intramural teams that want to play during lunch, but they can't because there's no safe place on base," said Gillespie. "I'm real proud of the team considering we haven't really had anywhere to practice. We still came out and won."

The Miramar Varsity team went undefeated in the tournament and squared off against the Twentynine Palms team in the final game Sunday. The early part of the first half saw Miramar Varsity down by two goals, but they kept pressing forward.

Midway through the first half, Gillespie, forward, pumped two goals into the net to tie the score, but Twentynine Palms wasn't finished yet.

In the second half, the visiting team from Twentynine Palms lit the lamp again, and the score became 3-2. Miramar's Brian Kruszewski, forward, answered back, forcing the game into overtime.

Eight seconds later, it was all over when Miramar's Richard T. Folga, defenseman, slammed the puck into the back of the Twentynine Palms' goal.

The team has several more tournaments scheduled for this season, and they hope to branch out and involve the community as well.

"We would like to get a rink on base soon to hold our own tournaments. We also want to start an intramural league for kids," said Gillespie.

Right now, the Varsity Team plays in the AAA Bronze Division League at the Poway Sportsplex from 6 until 10 p.m. Mondays.

If you're interested...

in playing for the Miramar Varsity Roller Hockey Team contact Lance Cpl. Jesse Gillespie at 577-1722 for more information.



Miramar's Brian J. Kruszewski, forward, faces off against an opponent from **MCAGCC** Twentynine Palms in the final game of the Miramar military roller hockey tournament. The tournament was the first military-only tournament in California. Miramar's Varsity team was undefeated and took top honors after edging Twentynine Palms 4-3 in overtime. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

The Fast and the Furious

Briefs-

8th Camp Pendleton Mud Run

So you think you're motivated? Think you're a hard-charger? Ready to get down and dirty? The 8th Annual Mud Run Saturday at Camp Pendleton's Lake O'Niell will give you the opportunity to see how hard Corps you really are.

The race begins at 9 a.m. and is open to both military and civilian runners who will negotiate a challenging 10K course over rugged terrain filled with slippery training obstacles, knee to waist-deep water and a 6-foot wall.

For more information about the mud run visit www.CampPendletonRaces.com or call (760) 725-6836.

Annual Bicycle Rodeo

The Provost Marshal's Office sponsors the Annual Bicycle Rodeo Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the parade deck across from the station theater.

For more information call Cpl. Summer Elam or Lance Cpl. Mia Dixon at 577-6779.

SNCO Club Advisory Board seeks record keeper

The Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Club Advisory Board is in need of a new recorder keeper. The current record keeper, is leaving next month.

Interested SNCOs can e-mail Sgt. Maj. Ira Lott at *lottij@miramar.usmc.mil*.

MCCS offers Triple Threat of basketball challenges

Miramar Marine Corps Community Services will hold the 101 Days of Summer Triple Threat. Three tournaments: 3-on-3 Basketball, Tuesday through Friday; Drug-Free Throw, Wednesday; and the Slam Dunk Contest, Thursday, will offer trophies to the top three places in each.

For more information about the Triple Threatcontact D.J. McClusky at 577-1936 or 577-6171.

Semper Fit seeks resumes for All-Marine marathon team

The Armed Forces Marathon Championship will be held in conjunction with the Marine Corps Marathon, Oct. 28. Semper Fit is seeking a team comprised of five men and three women to be the designated Marine team for the Challenge Cup competition against the British Royal Navy and Marine Corps.

Marines interested in being selected must submit resumes in accordance with Marine Corps Order P1700.29, no later than Aug. 1, and must contain command endorsement.

The MCO can be found at www.usmc-mccs.org, under policy.

For more information contact Pamala Hodge at (703) 784-9542.

Playmorning at the Rec Center

Preschoolers of all ages are invited to attend Playmorning at the Admiral Baker Recreation Center every third Tuesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

For information and directions call the Marine New Parent Support Program (619) 524-0805.

All-enlisted golf tournament

Six sea service teams compete for the Fleet Week interservice trophy in a tournament scheduled for Oct. 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For more information contact Chuck Smith via e-mail at *chucksmyth@aol.com* or call (619) 472-5800.

First Friends

Marine New Parents Support Program offers First Friends – a group for families with babies one to six months old. The group meets at Mills Park on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 3 to 3:50 p.m.

For details call the Marine New Parents Support Program at 577-9812.

Study scuba for safe diving

Want to blow some tiny bubbles? Scuba classes are offered at the 50-meter pool. The two-week classes are offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m., and include five ocean dives.

Call 577-4137 for more information about these classes.

Water workout

Aqua-Robics will be offered through Labor Day at the O' Club Pool. Classes are open to all. Session times are 5 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., every Tuesday and Thursday.

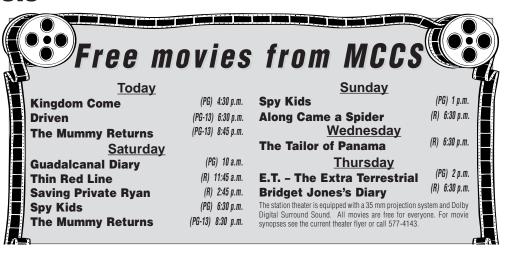
For more information about Aqua-Robics and the O' Club Pool call 577-4129.

NNOA 29th Annual Conference

The Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., chapter of the National Naval Officers Association will hold its 29th Annual Conference July 16-20 at the Marine Corps Research Center, Building 2040, MCB Quantico

For more information visit the NNOA Web site: www.NNOA.org.

Sandwich Afare



Referees needed

San Diego County Football Officials Association holds an open house and get-acquainted meeting at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday at the California Interscholastic Federation headquarters.

Anyone interested in becoming a football referee can come and ask questions.

For details call Tom Ables at 677-1129 or 270-7683 or Charles Washington at (760) 941-1225.

Learn to coach youth sports

Coaches are needed for T-ball, slow-pitch, and baseball. Attend the MCCS Miramar "Introduction to Coaching Youth Sports Certification Clinic" and learn how to set the stage for a successful season, coach's rules and responsibilities, and tips on teaching the fundamentals of sport. It takes place July 7 at the Miramar Youth Center.

For more information call the Youth Sports Office at 577-4136.

BAH.

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one of several initiatives designed to aid low-income military families.

Lawmakers and Pentagon leaders have been addressing the financial concerns of low-income servicemembers for the past three years, according to a report in Army Times. Last year, Congress passed legislation aimed at getting military families off food stamps by offering extra money to those who qualify, and former Defense Secretary William Cohen developed a plan to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses by 2005.



Abandon ship

Corporal William Hess demonstrates the proper abandon-ship technique as Staff Sgt. Brian Whalen speaks to a group of Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students from Donna, Texas. Whalen and Hess, both water survival instructors with G-3 Training, demonstrated and taught the students Marine Corps water survival techniques. While aboard Miramar the students saw a K-9 demonstration, visited a helicopter squadron, the mess hall and the Flying Leatherneck Museum. Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

Sands.

continued from page 1

tems work and how to make them compatible with the other data systems and how to route that communication across various states," said O'Harra.

These difficulties came hand in hand with increasing experience because Marines had to learn about the capability limitations in a combined, joint environment. They also get to see how the Germans and Dutch receive and disseminate Theater Ballistic Missile information and how these countries interact in an air defense role, stated O'Harra. Normally, MACS-1 is not given the chance to test TBMs. With the systems used during the exercise they were able to simulate TBMs and the information received resembled that of a live TBM, said O'Harra.

"This is probably the best training opportunity we [MACS-1] get for the year and that comes from the fact that we have to deploy away from Yuma and have to ensure all gear is available and the planning is very involved," said O'Harra.

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Other notable commands Hackett has served with are: 1st Marine Division during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia; Marine

Fighter Attack Squadron 323 here, and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All-Weather) 242 here.

In February, Hackett was ordered to the United States Army Central Command where he was temporarily assigned as the Chief of Staff for the Coalition Joint Task Force Kuwait until June 2001.

Hackett's personal decorations include the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with two awards, Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation and Meritorious Unit Commendation, with three awards.

Hackett is married to the former Alexandra Lee Allen of Montgomery, Ala. They have a son, Edward Jr., 9, and a daughter, Alexandra, 6.

Loadmaster,

continued from page 6 "flying gas station."

During a troop assault mission, the loadmaster configures the aircraft for weight, conducts equipment loading and maintains security and control of the passengers. Once on the ground, the loadmaster conducts the equipment off-load.

With the aerial delivery mission, the aircraft is configured, the paratroopers and their

equipment are loaded into the aircraft. The loadmaster carries out his checklist and once the rear hatch is opened, he conducts the drop. If an emergency occurs, the loadmaster executes procedures as required.

Not only is the KC-130 an aerial refueler, but it can also act as a ground gas station for other vehicles. With a rapid ground refueler, the loadmaster conducts all operations outside the aircraft.

He plans the rapid ground refueler layout from start to finish, coordinates with participating units and if necessary executes emergency procedures.

With the battlefield illumination mission, the "flying gas station" sheds light on the ground for troops and other aircraft. The loadmaster conducts the illumination drop and maintains security in the rear of the aircraft and executes emergency procedures.

"All flights are training for a real-world contingency," said Purdue.

Three of the KC-130's missions require two loadmasters; the rapid ground refueler, battlefield illumination and aerial delivery, the rest only need one.

"We rely on each other as a team not an individual," said Cpl. James E. Sloan, loadmaster, VMGR-352. "We're all going for the same goal - mission accomplishment."

Lifesaver,

continued from page 6

hotel, acting as instruments in (God's) hands to perform a miracle," said Holladay. "We acknowledge with all the gratitude of our hearts that thanks to God and the Taitingfongs our Samuel can start Kindergarten this fall. They are true heroes for our family."

As a token of their thanks, the Holladays treated the Taitingfongs to dinner. During that dinner the Holladays presented the very modest Taitingfongs with a statue of Jesus Christ and a copy of the Holy Bible with a small inscription by a very lucky young boy. It reads "Thank you for saving me, love Sam."

Whether sheer coincidence or divine intervention, one thing is for certain — the Taitingfongs saved a young boy's life. Their actions made everything that can be in that child's future possible.

The young Marine Corps couple remain modest.

"I told my husband, I said 'You're the real hero,' because the kid was just throwing up and my husband was just sucking it in and spitting it out," said Rachel. "He just kept going and going because he wanted to make sure (the child) was okay."

Classified and Ad Space